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# The Advisor

Official Weekly Command Information Report for the Multi-National Security Transition Command - Iraq



Motivated  
and gaining  
strength

Recent Iraqi police  
graduates celebrate  
opportunity to defend  
Iraqi streets

# MNSTC-I

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Direct questions and comments to:  
pao@mnstci.iraq.centcom.mil

MNSTC-I PAO  
APO AE 09316  
DPN: 318-852-1334

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**Cover: Iraqi police graduates celebrate following a ceremony at the Baghdad Police College July 21. The graduates completed 10 weeks of basic police and integration training.**

Photo by U.S. Army Capt. Tom Morley

## DoD assists Iraq in establishing IG system

By **Gerry J. Gilmore**

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – American dreams of a free and sovereign nation were at rock bottom at Valley Forge, Pa., in February 1778 when Baron Von Steuben, a battle-tested former Prussian Army officer who had served on the General Staff of Frederick the Great, arrived in camp to bring organization and professionalism to the Continental Army.

Von Steuben, recruited by U.S. Minister to France Benjamin Franklin, taught the raw American militiamen how to fight as a disciplined body. The Prussian was later appointed as the first inspector general of the Army, noted Deane Williams, the DoD IG office's chief of special projects in the Inspections and Evaluations Directorate.

Today, Iraq is also seeking to become a free, democratic country, Williams pointed out. And as when America fought for its freedom, Iraqis too want a professional army and a government free from corruption, he said. L. Paul Bremer, the former head of the Coalition Provisional Authority, signed the law establishing the new IG system in Iraq, Williams said.

Since then, DoD, the U.S. State Department, the Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction, and other agencies have teamed up to help the Iraqis establish an IG system across their new government, Williams noted. There are now 31 inspectors general within the Iraqi government, including Ministry of Defense Inspector General Layla Jassim Al-Moktar.

When now-jailed former dictator Saddam Hussein seized power in Iraq in 1979, he instituted a murderous re-

gime rife with corruption and nepotism. Moktar said the purpose of Iraq's new IG system is to erase Saddam's legacy of corrupt government.

The establishment of inspector general offices across the new Iraqi government is expected to greatly assist in dissipating Iraqi citizens' distrust of government caused by the corrupt Saddam years. Corruption in the new Iraqi government would negatively impact its legitimacy in the world and jeopardize democratic rule in the country, he said.

He noted the Iraqi Anti-Corruption System consists of a Commission on Public Integrity, for criminal investigation oversight; a Board of Supreme Audit, for government audit oversight; and an Inspector General System, for ministry audits, investigations, and inspections.

During her visit here, Moktar spoke about the proposed formalization of Iraq's new inspector general organization in a speech before the President's Council on Integrity and Efficiency. The council's mission is to address integrity, economy and effectiveness issues within individual government agencies and increase the professionalism and effectiveness of IG officials and staff throughout the government.

DoD Inspector General Joseph E. Schmitz, who'd met with Moktar last June in Baghdad prior to the transfer of sovereignty, and during her recent visit at his office in Pentagon City, saluted the senior Iraqi official for "her courage and her commitment both to integrity and to the IG system in the new Iraqi government."

Schmitz also noted that Moktar "plays an active leadership role as a liaison" with the other Iraqi IGs.

**"To see what is right, and not to do it, is want of courage or of principle." Confucius (551 BC - 479 BC)**

# 931 inspired Iraqi police graduate from extended 10-week training course

**By U.S. Army Spc. Ben Brody**

2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division Public Affairs

BAGHDAD, Iraq – Distinguished police and military leaders turned out to watch 931 motivated Iraqi police officers graduate from their training course at Baghdad Police College on Camp Shield July 21.

The graduating IPs stood in formation as their senior leaders praised the hard work and dedication the students demonstrated during their training. The program consists of academic study of general policing topics



A platoon of Iraqi police graduates march in-step during a pass-and-review during the July 21 ceremony.

Photo by U.S. Army Capt. Larry George

combined with a heavy emphasis on tactical operational policing skills. The basic course covers the fundamentals of policing to include communications, patrols, domestic violence, lawful use of force, stress management and ethics. The course also covers some training in the English language.

With the increasing violence recently, especially directed at Iraqi police, a modification of the basic training curriculum was required. The first modification altered the curriculum to provide 94 hours of operational related training such as explosives recognition, first aid and increased physical fitness training.

The second revision focused on scenario based training that involved instruction on the appropriate methods to respond to suspected explosive devices, to conduct traffic control points, to search for suspects, on driving and combat life saving proficiencies, and other critical skills.

The most recent modification to the training emphasizes combat survival and police skills while building an attitude of teamwork and unit cohesion. This latest change includes the first expansion of the program of instruction from an eight-week to a 10-week course. New classes have been added that provide for more hands-on and practical training exercises such as the proper methods to defend a police station, to respond to an explosion, and to respond to an ambush.

During the ceremony, the IP band played as the entire group of graduates marched past the reviewing stands, showing off both their new uniforms and their status as qualified IP officers. The new officers will each be assigned to one of many stations all over Iraq, be issued a weapon and given follow-on training.



A female Iraqi police student proudly waves the Iraqi flag as graduating students pass in the background during the July 21 ceremony.

Photo by U.S. Army Spc. Ben Brody

**See 'Graduates'**

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## Graduates

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Honor graduate Reyad Abed said he joined the Iraqi police to serve his country and protect his people.

"It's important for the future of Iraq that we help the country become stable," Abed said. "We are here to serve our citizens and keep them safe."

Baghdad Police College was formerly a three-year academy which produced commissioned officers. The facility is adapting to its new role – training 1,000 new police officers every month.

A tour of the BPC reveals numerous on-going construction projects, Iraqi police practicing battle drills on grassy fields, and studious young men in classrooms.

"My favorite part of the training was learning defensive tactics, and shooting at the range," Abed said. "We're well prepared to fight the terrorists because we have good training and strong spirits."

The class also included 25 female police officers, and Abed said he enjoyed working with them.

"The female officers are like our sisters," he said. "We treat each other with every respect."

The new class will be able to support the IP's all over the country.

"You are now trained and prepared to help your brother and sister IP's as we fight the terrorist threat," said Brigadier General Osama Badri, the dean of the college and keynote speaker. The priority is fighting corruption, protecting human rights, reinforcing law and order in the society and focusing on securing the safety and stability of Iraq, he said.

"I applaud your self sacrificing spirit," he added.

During a silent moment in the ceremony, a low thud from a controlled detonation destroying captured terrorist's munitions and equipment sounded in the distance reminding everyone of the dangers the Iraqi police face every day.

"I know the work is dangerous, but it is my duty to keep my country safe, no matter what," Abed said. "Any IP will tell you the same thing."



Iraqi police graduates from class 06 exchange the guidon with students from class 07 during the July 21 ceremony.

Photo by U.S. Army Spc. Ben Brody



### Celebration

Iraqi police graduates congratulate one another, proudly wave their Iraqi flags and toss their caps in the air at the completion of the July 21 graduation ceremony. The 931 new officers will report for duty in the coming weeks and take up their assignments at their respective police stations throughout Iraq.

Photos by U.S. Army Spc. Ben Brody



# Iraqi forces conduct joint Operation Fish Net II

By **U.S. Army Maj. Michael L. Eller**

3rd Brigade, 5th Iraqi Army Division MiTT Team Advisor

SOUTHEAST, Iraq – Soldiers from 3rd Brigade, 5th Iraqi Army Division, also known as the Al Karar Brigade, along with a battalion from the 8th Iraqi Army Division, and an Iraqi police battalion conducted a joint operation July 8 aimed at disrupting insurgent activity in northwest Wasit Province.

The main thrust of operations focused on an area populated with fish ponds, agriculture buildings and small villages. Acting on intelligence gathered from Al Karar Brigade's Iraqi Reconnaissance Surveillance Team, the brigade staff developed and executed the operation. Due to the target area's size, additional Multi-National Division - Central South forces were assigned to the operation to include a battalion from the 8th Iraqi Army Division and a battalion from the Iraqi Provincial police unit.

The joint Iraqi Security Force elements deployed separately from their base units in the early morning hours of July 8. Deployment coordination was critical to ensure all units hit their assigned area of operations simultaneously. Prior to the mission, the Al Karar Brigade hosted two mission coordination meetings with leaders



Iraqi military and police leadership involved in Operation Fish Net II conduct a coordination meeting to ensure mission success. Photo by U.S. Army

from all elements.

Each unit participating in the operation possessed a consolidated list of names identifying individuals as suspected or known insurgents. This list was assembled by Al Karar Brigade and Iraqi police intelligence operators.

At approximately 5:45 a.m., each objective area was cordoned off and maneuver units conducted a thorough search of the area. Iraqi soldiers manning traffic control points searched vehicles and checked civilian identifications against the consolidated list of names.

The Al Karar Brigade's area of operation was divided into three battalion sectors. During the mission, the 3rd Battalion of the Al Karar Brigade reacted to enemy small arms fire and tracked down four individuals leading to the recovery of a large weapons and ammunition cache.

"Again, the Al Karar Brigade demonstrated its ability to plan and execute a large operation" said U.S. Army Lt. Col. Daniel Christian, commanding officer of the Military Transition Team assigned to the brigade.



Iraqi soldiers from the Al Karar Brigade move detainees back to the tactical operations center during Operation Fish Net II. Photo by U.S. Army

"The [battalion] attachment of the 8th [Iraqi] Division and an Iraqi police battalion increased the level of planning and coordination. The brigade staff did a great job incorporating these attachments into the overall concept of the operation."

The Al Karar Brigade is currently headquartered southeast of Baghdad in the Wasit Province.

The Al Karar Brigade's MiTT is comprised primarily of soldiers from the U.S. Army Reserve's 98th Division, an Institutional Training unit based out of Rochester, NY. Most of the U.S. advisors have been with the Iraqi brigade for almost nine months. They have trained the Iraqi soldiers throughout the eight-week basic combat training course, which finished in early February. The 98<sup>th</sup> was mobilized to support the Multi-National Security Transition Command – Iraq in October 2004.



Weapons and ammunition cache discovered during the operation. Photo by U.S. Army

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# First qualified Iraqi C-130 aircrew graduates

**By U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Herb Phillips**  
MNSTC-I/CMATT

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AN NASIRIYAH, Iraq — In what would have to be considered a historic event for the Iraqi Air Force, the C-130 Advisory Support Team graduated its first six “mission qualified” aircrew members July 12 at Ali Base.



**Iraqi Air Force Lt. Col. S. presents Iraqi Air Force Col. M. (face is blurred for security purposes), Iraqi C-130 Navigator, his qualification certificate.** Photo by MNSTC-I

The students, all members of the initial cadre of Iraqi C-130 crewmembers, began their road to mission qualification back in October 2004 with initial flight and ground training provided in Jordan. The students then

traveled to Little Rock Air Force Base, Arkansas in January 2005 to attend the U.S. Air Force Basic Conversion C-130E course where they were taught cockpit procedures, crew resource management, and aircraft systems.

The students returned to Iraq to Ali Base in February 2005 to begin the intensive regimen of ground and flight training, English language training and aircraft systems academics. Their first training flight over the southern Iraq skies was Feb 7.

## Airmen teach C-130 ops to Iraqis, learn about sacrifice

**By U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Melissa Phillips**  
407th Air Expeditionary Group Public Affairs

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ALI BASE, Iraq — When a crew of instructors deployed here to teach Iraqi airmen the finer points of flying and maintaining a C-130 Hercules, they knew they had a monumental task in front of them. But what they found was something unexpected.

Slowly over several months, Iraqi and U.S. Airmen have developed life-long friendships with the very men they previously called enemies. “Our instructors are more than just a friend,” said Iraqi Air Force Capt. S., a maintenance officer with Squadron 23. “We are like brothers.” Names of Iraqi airmen were withheld as a means of force protection.

The squadron is the first medium airlift postwar Iraqi Air Force flying squadron and is now more than 100 airmen

In order to become mission qualified, the aircrews first conducted basic qualification training which included instruction to safely operate the C-130 in accordance with technical order procedures. This training included aircraft systems, navigation procedures, and weather and instrument procedures. The last phase of training to become mission qualified included mission planning, crew management, radio procedures and airway flying procedures.

The graduation ceremony was a culmination of over eight months of intense technical training which now qualifies and certifies the graduates to operate the C-130E Hercules anywhere inside and outside of Iraq.

U.S. Air Force Maj. Roger Redwood, 777th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron Operations Flight Commander, congratulated the graduates for their noteworthy accomplishments as he presented certificates during the ceremony. “Thank you for all the sacrifices you have made as you start the first Iraqi C-130 squadron,” he said.

Iraqi Air Force Lt. Col S., Iraqi 23rd Transport Squadron Commander, concluded the ceremony by thanking the Coalition Advisory Support Team instructors. “They are not only friends, but brothers that we have learned a lot of information and experiences [from] about [the] C-130,” he said.

The Iraqi Squadron Commander added that the AST instructors were critical in Iraq’s efforts in rebuilding their Air Force. “They work as if they are in the Iraqi Air Force also. They give us the power and energy and encourage us to stay in the Air Force. They give us the blood to begin a life again in this critical time of Iraqi life; towards rebuilding a new democracy and protecting our country,” he said.

strong. More than 30 advisory support team instructors, all assigned here to either the 777th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron or 777th Airlift Squadron, train their Iraqi counterparts in aircrew and logistics specialties.

The team also maintains a few specialized jobs such as maintenance operations center controller, sortie support section, production supervisor, maintenance officer and superintendent.

U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Patrick Shaw, an aerial port instructor deployed from McChord Air Force Base, Wash., said coming here has revealed a new world to him. He teaches students who previously subscribed to a different philosophy on how to get the aerial port mission done.

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## Sacrifice

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Before learning the U.S. aerial port processes, the Iraqi students would go straight from the aircraft to the battlefield, Shaw said.

Under the old regime, Iraqi airmen did not have the same level of accountability over cargo and people. So it has been an interesting process of getting them to understand why the paperwork is so important and will help reduce duplication of effort in the long run, said Shaw.

Most of the Iraqi airmen have been doing the same job on other transport aircraft for years, some for longer than a few of the U.S. Airmen have been alive. Although the Iraqi Air Force has a solid foundation in transport flight processes, it still has not been an easy process to access their past experience.

U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Tommy Lee, a flight engineer instructor, and his other teammates have had to find new and inventive ways to bridge the language gap.

“One time I had to explain in six different ways why the instrument panel wasn’t lit up,” said Lee, who is deployed from Little Rock AFB, Ark. “One of the students had skipped a step on the checklist, and it took me 30 minutes to explain what it would have taken less than 30 seconds to explain to a U.S. Airman, because of the communication barrier.”

In the beginning, there were no interpreters. Now the unit has three.

Despite the obstacles, in less than six months the first Iraqi Air Force pilot and co-pilot flew alone without a U.S. pilot in a flight seat position, and the first navigator was fully qualified. Plus, more than 65 Iraqi Air Force mechanics have received their equivalent of a five-level certification and are now working toward their seven-level equivalent.



U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Patrick Shaw (left) and U.S. Air Force Senior Master Sgt. James Baarda instruct one of their Iraqi Air Force students (right) on the finer points of loading a C-130 Hercules. Photo by U.S. Air Force Airman 1st Class Jamie Schultz

from Pope AFB, N.C. “They pay attention, they like to keep everything clean (while performing maintenance), and with them it’s all about the airplane.”

“These are the best people I’ve ever worked with,” said U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Aaron Havens, an electronics and environmental instructor deployed

The students are continually struggling to understand a new language and different ways of doing things while simultaneously fighting for their lives and worrying about keeping their identities secret to protect themselves and their families from harm by insurgents.

But for them, they say it is worth it because they no longer fight for just one man -- they fight for their country.

For Iraqi Capt. S., who was also an officer during the previous regime, that shift in mentality is priceless.

“I recently went to visit an Iraqi soldier in the hospital,” he said. “He had lost both his legs, and we went there to comfort him. When we were leaving, we told him, ‘May God be with you.’ He called back out to me, ‘For Iraq, I would give up my whole life, not just my legs.’”

Most of the Iraqi airmen have businesses or farms and are relatively well off already. But when the opportunity came to return to the service they love, regardless of the risk, they jumped on it.

Since Jan. 14, when the squadron was officially formed, the airmen have been sneaking in the shadows and many have hid their allegiance to the Iraqi Air Force to family and friends, some even to their own wives.

Captain S’s wife, concerned for her family’s safety, continually pleads with him to quit and has also asked his father to pressure him. But the captain, whose own son does not know he is currently serving, said, “If I don’t do it, who will?”

“I dream that Iraq will someday be safe,” he said. “We will be at peace, and at peace with our neighbors. I wish for a civilized country and a better place for my children.

“I try to teach my son to respect the armed forces when he sees them in the streets,” he said. “One day when he grows up, I want him to know his father sacrificed during the worst period in his country in order for his children to have a better Iraq.”

Iraqi Flight Engineer J. also fights for the same dream and a chance to build a new Iraqi Air Force. He has been a flight engineer for 10 years, but until now has never felt able to express concerns to his superiors because of his rank.

“I’m impressed at how Americans treat each other as far as rank,” Engineer J. said. “They treat each other equally. During the previous regime there was a huge difference between a flight engineer and pilot. Now, we work together.

“Because of the treatment we’ve experienced from our instructors firsthand and the friendship they’ve shown us, it’s made me change my views on all Americans,” he said. “We understand the true (meaning of) American kindness.”

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## Sacrifice

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Both Iraqi airmen said one of the proudest moments in their lives was during the ceremony when the Department of Defense gave three C-130 Hercules aircraft to the squadron, and the Iraqi Air Force placed the Iraqi flag on their own planes. The second was when they saw one of their planes take off and fly for the first time.

"We are so proud to be the first unit to fly Iraqi Air Force planes," Engineer J. said. Their pride is contagious.

"This is the pinnacle of my career and the most rewarding job I've ever had in my Air Force career," Shaw said. "This job has given me a lot of insight to working outside your comfort zone. You really get a front seat to how other people's actions (affect) organizations across the board.

"My students will continue to teach new students, and what we started here will allow them to move their forces and security folks to where they're threatened to secure their nation," he said.

From the start, Shaw realized the historical significance of his job, but said he did not realize how strongly he would feel for the plight of his students. "You get very close to these guys and you want to see them succeed," Shaw said.

He and the other instructors know their students' family members by name and take an interest in their daily lives

and vice versa. Some of the instructors and students have the other country's flag in their homes and can recognize the sound of the other service member's spouse on the other end of the phone.

"We get incredibly close to each other and our families get involved," Haven said.

The relationship between the two countries' airmen has not been all perpetual seriousness.

"I remember one of the first times our class shared a laugh together was during a training session where I was teaching them hand signals so they can marshal cargo properly," Shaw said. "Well, one of my students was trying to do more than one signal at a time, and he looked like an orchestra conductor.

"That became his nickname for a while," he said. "Everyone had a good laugh and that's when I realized we really weren't so different.

"Sometimes it's overwhelming to know how much of an (effect) you're making when you're in the middle of it," Shaw said. "But then you realize you're helping specific people -- specific people I know by name -- and we are helping them to succeed.

"I don't know what history will write, but if this is the smallest footnote or biggest chapter in history, I'll never forget it," he added.



## Did you know?

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### Iraq – The Mongol Invasion

The Mongols under the leadership of Mongol ruler Hulagu Khan, grandson of Genghis Khan, marched on Baghdad with two hundred thousand Tartars. Al-Musta`sim Billah's army and the people of Baghdad jointly faced them, but it was not in their power to stop this torrent of misfortune. The result was that the Tartars entered Baghdad on the day of `Ashura' in 1258 carrying with them bloodshed and ruin. Forty days of killing in the streets left rivers of blood and the alleys were filled with dead bodies. While in Baghdad, Hulagu deliberately destroyed what remained of Iraq's canal systems. Centuries' worth of material and artistic production were swept away.

Iraq became a neglected frontier province ruled from the Mongol capital of Tabriz in Iran. After the death of Abu Said (also known as Bahadur the Brave) in 1335, a period of political confusion ensued in Iraq until the local dynasty of Jalayirids seized power. The Jalayirids ruled until the beginning of the fifteenth century.

In 1401, The Mongol leader Tamerlane sacked Baghdad and massacred many of its inhabitants. Tamerlane killed thousands of Iraqis and devastated hundreds of towns. In Iraq, political chaos, severe economic depression, and social disintegration followed in the wake of the Mongol invasions. Baghdad, long a center of trade, rapidly lost its commercial importance.

Basrah, which had been a key transit point for seaborne commerce, was circumvented after the Portuguese discovered a shorter route around the Cape of Good Hope in Africa. In agriculture, Iraq's once-extensive irrigation system fell into disrepair, creating swamps and marshes at the edge of the delta and dry, uncultivated steppes farther out.

- Information provided by [http://arabic-media.com/iraq\\_history.htm](http://arabic-media.com/iraq_history.htm)

# 1<sup>st</sup> U.S. BCT Soldiers facilitate police training

By U.S. Army Spc. James Green

1st Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs, Task Force Liberty

TIKRIT, Iraq – Being a police officer in Iraq is different than most other places because the country is a war zone. The police have to deal with roadside bombs, car bombs, terrorist attacks, new changes in government, and the way things have been done in the past.

It's the job of 1st Brigade Combat Team's Iraqi Police Services to help the Iraqi police in Salah Ad Din Province handle those challenges. The U.S. Soldiers hire, train and give the police supplies necessary to carry out their mission.

The first step for Iraqi police in the Salah Ad Din province is to take part in police training, said U.S. Army Capt. David Zickafoose, 1st BCT officer in charge of police training. An interview and background check is done by the 1st BCT IPS before the cadets are hired. Then the cadets are sent to the Jordan Police Academy or the Baghdad Police Academy for their initial training.

After they graduate from either academy, they next attend the Cohort Training School at Forward Operating Base Danger here. The cohort training is taught by international police liaison officers who work with the Iraqis and assist new officers deal with the challenging environment in which they will have to work.

Zickafoose is trying to change the way Iraqis traditionally think of police.

"They are used to seeing traffic police or special police and nothing else," said Zickafoose.



Iraqi police students execute a variety of training exercises during both their basic and cohort instruction cycles. Practical exercises such as marksmanship training help the police officers to perfect both their individual and teamwork skills.

Photo by U.S. Army Capt. Larry George

There have been positive changes in the past few months since Zickafoose and his team took over. "There is more of a human aspect now. When I first got here, I could only see what was going wrong and now I can see some things that are going right."

One of the numerous challenges the police face are tribal conflicts.

"Some of the police belong to different tribes which have been known to fight each other," said Zickafoose.

"The police may not want to arrest or be strict on someone breaking the law in their tribe; or they may be too harsh on someone from a different tribe."

There are not any high profile departments within the province's police organization such as narcotics, or SWAT.

"It's my goal to have the police trained well enough to be able to do basic law enforcement such as simple investigations and traffic control," said Zickafoose.

The Iraqi police in the Salah Ad Din province also receive supplies from the IPS so they can do their job and protect the Iraqi citizens.

"If we weren't doing what we do, the Iraqi police wouldn't be able to perform their mission," said U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Joshua Metzger, noncommissioned officer in charge of recruiting new police officers. "We get them the supplies and personnel so they can go out and patrol."

Coalition forces are slowly turning control over to the police, allowing them to secure their province. Task Force Liberty Soldiers have already released some checkpoints to the Iraqi police. The police perform a number of duties to include security patrols throughout the province and missions with Coalition forces.

There are around 9,800 police in the Salah Ad Din province and personnel involved with hiring the police said they do not plan to hire many more.

"The main focus will be training and working on the quality of officers instead of hiring a lot of new police," said Metzger. "We want to weed out the bad ones and help the good ones become better."



Iraqi police are taught numerous basic tactical drills such as riot control training.

Photo by U.S. Army Lt. Col. Fred Wellman

# New soccer gear scores points with Bayaa youth

By U.S. Army Capt. Christian Neels  
4th Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs

BAGHDAD, Iraq – Despite the blistering summertime heat, more than 200 children and community members gathered at the Bayaa Youth Center in the Al Rashid district here to participate in a uniform and wheelchair distribution, followed by a soccer game July 13.

“The event was outstanding and turn-out was great,” said U.S. Army Capt. Jeffrey LaPlante, commander, Company B, 3rd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division.

“When we arrived, a group was already practicing hurdles at the track and kids were playing soccer,” said LaPlante, a native of Lakeland, Fla.

The Bayaa Neighborhood Council has been conducting public assistance projects to improve the quality of life of residents in their neighborhood during the past two weeks.

In addition to the soccer match that afternoon, a community health screening was conducted where more than 300 people were treated for minor illnesses by Iraqi doctors and given food and other humanitarian aid.

The community program also provided complete soccer uniforms, soccer balls, and a variety of other items for the 240 children involved in the Bayaa Youth Soccer League. There was enough equipment to outfit 15 teams.



Children from Bayaa get ready to play a soccer game after receiving uniforms and equipment from their neighborhood council and U.S. Soldiers of 3rd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment July 13.  
Photo by U.S. Army



Children from Bayaa eagerly await to play soccer after receiving uniforms and equipment.  
Photo by U.S. Army

Local leaders, with the assistance of several Company B Soldiers, distributed the uniforms to the soccer team coaches to a round of applause. Coaches of the soccer teams were thankful for the work that the Bayaa Neighborhood Council has recently accomplished.

“The local government has come a long way in the past month,” said U.S. Army 1st Lt. Eddie Johnson, the civil-military operations coordinator for Company B.

“They’re talking with the people they represent and they’re doing their best to improve the quality of life for the Bayaa people.”

Prior to the start of the soccer game, five disabled people from Bayaa were given new wheelchairs as well.

“Khalid and other neighborhood council members came to us asking for wheelchairs following the medical civil action project,” said Johnson, a native of Orangeburg, S.C. “We had a few that we hadn’t given out yet, so the neighborhood council arranged for the people to come to the youth center today to receive new wheelchairs.”

At the start of the soccer game, soccer balls and toys were distributed to children who weren’t participating. As Company B left the youth center, Khalid and Haider, two Bayaa Neighborhood Council members watched the children play soccer while talking to the people of their neighborhood.

Johnson said, “Although soccer uniforms and giving out a few wheelchairs isn’t a lot, people in Bayaa see their leaders out talking to the people, helping out the community and leading from the front.”

# Iraqi Security Forces / In Brief

## Iraqis lead Soldiers to weapons

BAGHDAD – A group of Iraqi citizens stopped a Task Force Baghdad unit patrolling in southeast Baghdad July 15 and told the Soldiers they'd found some weapons.

The patrol followed the Iraqis to the site and found two mortar tubes and three base plates, one rocket-propelled grenade launcher, 17 mortar rounds, 39 artillery rounds and 25 boxes of hand grenades.

"These citizens did the right thing by reporting the weapons they found to the Soldiers so they could get rid of them before a terrorist could use them," said U.S. Army Lt. Col. Clifford Kent, a Task Force Baghdad spokesperson.

The patrol rewarded the Iraqis with a payment from the Commander's Reward Program.

Iraqi Security Forces and Task Force Baghdad officials continue to encourage all Iraqi citizens to report suspicious behavior by e-mailing [baghdadtipshotline@yahoo.com](mailto:baghdadtipshotline@yahoo.com) or calling one of the TIPS hotlines at 07901737723 or 07901737727. (Task Force Baghdad Public Affairs)

## Iraqi police capture suicide bomber, foil attack

BAGHDAD – Iraqi police saved the lives of numerous mourners who were attending a funeral for children killed in a deadly attack that occurred July 13 in east Baghdad.

The Iraqi Policemen who were providing security at the funeral noticed a suspicious adult male approaching the funeral procession at about 3 p.m. July 16.

The Iraqi police stopped the man, searched him, and discovered he was wearing a suicide vest. A team of explosives experts safely removed the vest before the terrorist could detonate it. No one was injured in the failed attack.

"The Iraqi police showed incredible bravery. They noticed a suicide bomber and they subdued him before he could detonate his ball bearing filled vest. The bomber was high on drugs and is being treated for the potential overdose," said U.S. Army Col. Joseph DiSalvo, commander of US Forces in Rusafa (east Baghdad).

"This is an incredibly heinous crime. The bomber, who is from Libya, came here to kill the grieving parents of the children who were killed on Wednesday. I cannot imagine a worse crime," DiSalvo said.

The terrorist is being detained and will eventually be turned over to the Iraqi Justice System.

"I thank God for the Iraqi police; for stopping the terrorist before he could do his evil deed. He is obviously a very confused and evil man who has aligned himself with the most evil and Godless men on this earth," said an Iraqi man who attended the funeral. (2nd Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs)

## ISF takes down 26 suspects

BAGHDAD – Iraqi Security Forces and Task Force Baghdad Soldiers killed three anti-Iraqi force members and captured 29 more in a series of combat operations conducted in and around the capital July 17.



The largest operation of the day was conducted by 2nd Battalion, Iraqi Special Police Commandos at 3 a.m. in the Kamaliya district of east Baghdad.

In less than an hour-and-a-half, the Commandos raided 19 targets, captured 24 terror suspects, and seized AK-47 assault rifles, a machine gun and a sniper rifle. The Iraqi forces also found computer equipment and documents thought to contain plans for future attacks.

In another early-morning operation, Task Force Baghdad Soldiers arrested a known weapons dealer at his house in the Thawra neighborhood of northeast Baghdad shortly after 2 a.m. The patrol also discovered an AK-47 assault rifle in the man's home.

Later, Iraqi and U.S. Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 2nd Iraqi Army Brigade and the 3rd Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment teamed up to capture another terrorist who had been specifically targeted for his role in a series of attacks against Coalition forces and civilians in the Baghdad and Mosul areas.

"Offensive operations led by Iraqi Security Forces and supported by Coalition forces are taking the fight directly to the terrorists," said U.S. Army Lt. Col. Clifford Kent, a Task Force Baghdad spokesperson. "The ISF has made great strides in the last year and they're making tremendous progress against the insurgency." (Task Force Baghdad Public Affairs)

## Iraqi forces execute successful raids in Tall Afar

TALL AFAR – Iraqi soldiers continued with Operation Veterans Forward and captured several terrorists in raids throughout Tall Afar July 18, according to a multinational forces report.

Soldiers from the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade, 3<sup>rd</sup> Iraqi Army Division captured numerous insurgents and discovered several weapons caches in the city on Sunday. Two suspected improvised explosive device trigger men, believed to have injured a local man, were captured. In the western part of the city, six men were detained after their home was raided and over 300 artillery rounds were discovered. Local citizens aided the soldiers in removing the rounds from the building, which were later destroyed.

In the nearby village of Zagaytan, Iraqi police discovered a collection of IED making materials ranging from rigged cell phones to crude explosives and blasting caps.

# Iraqi Security Forces / In Brief

## Iraqi soldiers locate car bomb and wound AIF driver

HIT – Iraqi Army and Coalition forces conducted a successful cordon around a suspected vehicle-borne improvised explosive device here July 18, according to a multinational forces report.

After discovering the suspected VBIED, soldiers with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade, 1<sup>st</sup> Division Iraqi Intervention Force and Company K, 3/25 U.S. Marines secured the area around the vehicle while they awaited the arrival of an Iraqi explosive ordnance disposal team.

Suddenly, a young male approached the vehicle. The soldiers shouted for him to stop to no avail. An IIF soldier fired one 7.62 mm round wounding the man. A search of the man yielded wire cutters and a cell phone.

While still at the scene, the wounded man admitted he was there to transport the VBIED. The wounded insurgent was evacuated for medical care.

The VBIED was later cleared by the EOD team.

## Joint raids lead to weapons

MOSUL – Iraqi Security and Coalition forces conducted a series of successful joint raids in and around Mosul July 18, according to a multinational forces report.

Mosul Police officers and elements of 1-24 U.S. Infantry Regiment discovered a weapons cache hidden in the floor of a chicken coop during an early morning operation. Officials found 26 surface-to-air missiles, 700 mortar rounds, 450 rocket-propelled grenades, and 150 57 mm artillery rockets.

In a similarly successful raid, soldiers of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade, 2<sup>nd</sup> Iraqi Army Division discovered a massive cache 50 kilometers south of Mosul. The cache of six 1000 pound bombs was found outside the town Qayyarah.

No injuries or damages were reported.

## Iraqi forces capture 17 terror suspects in Baghdad raids

BAGHDAD – Iraqi Security Forces took 17 suspected terrorists, including four targeted individuals, into custody in a series of combat operations conducted in and around Baghdad July 18.

Iraqi soldiers from Company A, 4th Battalion, 1st Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division captured all four of the targeted terrorists just after midnight in the Abu Ghraib area.

Four hours later, Iraqi Security Forces from the 4th Iraqi Public Order Battalion and Iraqi Special Police Commandos working together in south Baghdad, seized nine more terror suspects and four AK-47 assault rifles.

In another joint operation, soldiers from 3rd Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division teamed up with 3rd Battalion, 15th U.S. Infantry Regiment to apprehend four more suspected terrorists during a raid against an anti-Iraqi force's safe-house in northeast Baghdad.

"Cooperation between our respective units has never been better," said U.S. Army Lt. Col. Clifford Kent, a Task

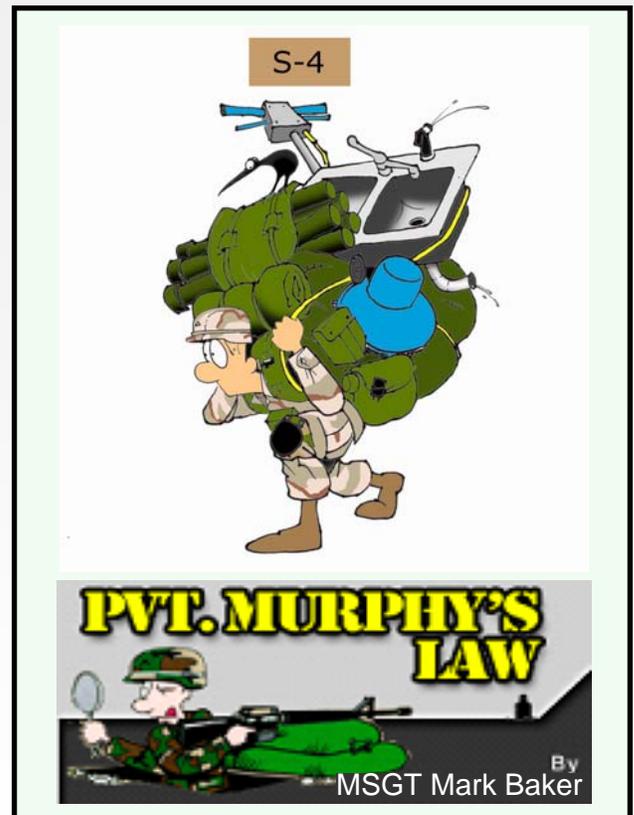
Force Baghdad spokesperson. "Thousands of Iraqis continue to volunteer to join the military despite threats and assassinations. Throughout Iraq, Iraqi Security Forces are shouldering more and more of the responsibility for achieving stability and security in Iraq."

At around 8 a.m., an Iraqi citizen pointed out a roadside bomb to Task Force Baghdad Soldiers patrolling in west Baghdad. The Soldiers investigated and found wires leading to a bomb hidden in a pile of trash on the side of the road. A team of explosives experts safely detonated the bomb. Task Force Baghdad Soldiers found five more roadside bombs at various locations in the capital. (Task Force Baghdad Public Affairs)

## Local citizens report AIF activity to Iraqi soldiers on patrol

BAGHDAD – Iraqi Army soldiers on patrol in northern Baghdad were approached by citizens worried about anti-Iraq forces activity in their neighborhood July 19, according to a multinational forces report.

Soldiers with the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division responded to reports from citizens about AIF meetings being held in a nearby house. The soldiers conducted a hasty cordon and search and discovered one computer, one light machine gun, one AK-47 automatic rifle, one Egyptian MP 5 automatic rifle, various papers and passports belonging to a group from Syria, and trans-fusion kits stored in a refrigerator. No suspects were found on the premises. No injuries or damages were reported.



# Iraqi Security Forces / In Brief

## Iraqi police receive code of conduct training

SULAYMANIYAH – Iraqi Police Service officers assigned to Camp O’Ryan received professional development instruction from Iraqi Police Liaison Officers on July 19, according to a multinational forces report.

Iraqi Police Service officers were lectured on the use of force, confidentiality, obedience to orders, personal integrity, dedication to community, and discretion issues. Classroom discussion involved presenting the students with a variety of scenarios and assessing their reactions to each. Other topics covered included job performance, use of their official position as an Iraqi police officer, and general conduct issues.

## Iraqi Wolf Brigade finds stolen artifacts

BAGHDAD – A battalion from the Iraqi Wolf Brigade conducted raids in the Ameriyah District and Al Dora neighborhood early July 19. The Iraqi soldiers captured a suspected dealer of stolen artifacts and one terrorist. They recovered three possible artifacts buried under a pile of palm fronds.

The detainee said he was acting as a middle man for a buyer and that the artifacts were worth \$25,000 each. The dealer believed the items to be 2,000 to 5,000 years old and they may have been stolen from a Baghdad museum.

In a separate raid, Company A, 4th Battalion, 64th Armored Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 3rd U.S. Infantry Division, working with Iraqi police from the Salhiya Police Station detained four terrorists. One of the detainees was a mid-level terrorist cell leader with ties to Ansar Al Sunna. He was wanted for selling and smuggling Strella surface-to-air missiles, which could be used against Coalition forces aircraft.

“Combining tips from the local populace and the work of the well-trained Salhiya IPs, we were able to detain a prominent insurgent cell leader, wanted for weapons trafficking,” said U.S. Army Capt. Steve Wood, commander, Company A. “This was another example of the Iraqi Security Forces and local leaders working together to make Iraq a safer place to live.” (4th Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs)

## Iraqi, U.S. Soldiers distribute frozen chickens to local citizens

CAMP TIMERLAND – Iraqi Army and Task Force Baghdad Soldiers distributed frozen chickens to locals in the community July 12.

Participating U.S. units were: 2nd and 3rd Battalions, 156th Infantry Regiment; 1st Battalion, 156th Armored Regiment; 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry Regiment; 1st Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment; and 2nd Battalion, 130th Infantry Regiment.

The 1-11th ACR and Iraqi Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 3rd Iraqi Army Brigade delivered 1,200 chickens to about

600 families in Abu Mannaser in the western Abu Ghraib area.

“The people of this area were very appreciative of the humanitarian assistance provided today,” said U.S. Army 1st Lt. Minh Nguyen, platoon leader, 1-11th ACR, from Victorville, Calif.

“The Iraqi Army continues to become well-rehearsed in both tactical and humanitarian missions,” said U.S. Army Lt. Col. Jim Blackburn, commander, 1-11th ACR, from Washington, Pa. “This humanitarian assistance operation will continue to build the relationship between the people and the Iraqi Army. It also discredits terrorists who are operating in that area and denying the people basic services.” (256th Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs)



A grateful resident thanks a soldier with the 2nd Battalion, 1st Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division, for giving him a frozen chicken July 12.

Photo by 256th Brigade Combat Team

## Iraqi, U.S. forces catch terror suspects and carjackers

BAGHDAD – Iraqi Army and Task Force Baghdad Soldiers captured 18 terror suspects and killed a car thief who was suspected of stealing cars for terrorist organizations and in the capitol July 20.

Fifteen of the 18 suspected terrorists were taken in during a series of early-morning combat operations carried out by Iraqi Security Forces from the 1st Battalion, 4th Public Order Brigade and Coalition Forces in Baghdad.

In another early-morning cordon-and-search mission, Soldiers from the 3rd Battalion, 3rd Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division teamed up with U.S. Soldiers to disrupt anti-Iraqi forces operating in east Abu Ghraib. The Soldiers seized three terror suspects, rifles and magazines, and a rocket-propelled grenade sighting device.

“Task Force Baghdad is committed to helping the Iraqis in Baghdad build a secure and peaceful future,” said U.S. Army Lt. Col. Clifford Kent, TFB spokesperson.

A Task Force Baghdad patrol in central Baghdad was flagged down by Iraqi citizens in the middle of the street. When the U.S. Soldiers stopped to see what was wrong, the two Iraqi citizens pointed to a car driving away and said their vehicle had been stolen. The patrol chased the car and fired warning shots to get the car to stop, but the vehicle sped up instead. When the Soldiers pursuing the car saw that the car’s occupants were armed, they opened fired and killed one robber and wounded the other. The patrol treated the wounded criminal at the site and he later admitted that he was part of a carjacking gang. The patrol brought the wounded robber to a military hospital for treatment and then into custody for further questioning. (Task Force Baghdad Public Affairs)

# Iraqi Security Forces / In Brief

## Iraqi police engage insurgents on Iranian border

MAYSAN PROVINCE – Iraqi Border Police intercepted approximately 20 anti-Iraq forces attempting to enter the country from Iran July 20, according to a multinational forces report.

Iraqi Border Police engaged the insurgent group with small arms fire about 90 kilometers north of Basrah. The insurgents briefly returned fire and then broke contact leaving weapons and equipment behind.

Iraqi police found a significant amount of improvised explosive device making materials including 228 pounds of TNT (24 boxes), 29 electric detonators, four explosively formed projectiles (shaped charges), electrical wire, one rocket-propelled grenade launcher, one transmitter, two modified passive infrared devices, seven batteries, four antennas, and 270 pounds of C4.

No injuries or damages were reported.

## Iraqi police and EOD find and disarm bombs in Baqubah

BAQUBAH – Iraqi police located and assisted in clearing two suspected improvised explosive devices here July 20, according to a multinational forces report.

Iraqi Police located one 155 mm artillery round with a remote firing device and one 60 mm mortar round wired for command detonation. In both instances, Iraqi Police secured the immediate area while the IEDs were disarmed by an Iraqi explosive ordnance disposal team.

No injuries or damages were reported in either incident.

## ISF capture bombs and weapons

MOSUL – Iraqi Army and police forces continue to disrupt anti-Iraq forces with planned cordon and search operations here July 20, according to a multinational forces report.

Iraqi police located a cache consisting of six improvised explosive devices encased in concrete, one Italian landmine, and four IED detonators. Two suspected insurgents were detained. An Iraqi explosive ordnance disposal team destroyed the cache.

Also in Mosul, Iraqi soldiers with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade, 2<sup>nd</sup> Iraqi Army Division confiscated four AK-47 automatic rifles, one assault rifle, one Mauser rifle, one pistol, passports and various papers. Three detainees were transported to a nearby forward operating base for further questioning. No injuries or damages were reported in either operation.

## Iraqi police graduate 177 from advanced training courses

BAGHDAD – The Iraqi Police Service graduated 177 police officers from advanced and specialty courses at the Adnan Training Facility July 21, as part of the Iraqi government's ongoing effort to train its security forces.

The courses consist of Basic Criminal Investigations with 48 graduates, First Line Supervision with 30 graduates,

Counter Terrorism Investigations with 41 graduates, Violent Crime Investigation with 30 graduates, and Interview and Interrogation with 28 graduates.

The Basic Criminal Investigation course covers topics such as theft, burglary, arson, robbery, sexual offenses, and homicide investigation. Participants also receive instruction and hands-on training in fingerprinting, photography, tool marks and plaster casting techniques. To date, 2,145 police officers have completed the Basic Criminal Investigations course.

First Line Supervision focuses on major leadership areas for front line supervisors including human rights training, ethics and corruption, policing in a democracy, and interpersonal skills critical to effective leadership. To date, 448 students have graduated from this course.

Counter Terrorism Investigations is designed for senior police officials who will be assigned to counter-terrorist activity investigation. The course will explain the FBI's and various branches in the US Justice Department's efforts against terrorism activities both in the US and abroad. This course has graduated 195 police officers to date.

The Violent Crime Investigation course introduces participants to investigative techniques to be used in a variety of situations, but particularly in violent crimes including armed robbery, rape and murder. This course has graduated 475 students to date.

The Interview and Interrogation course covers advanced interview and interrogation techniques and includes instruction on the preservation and protection of human rights, and the importance of ethical behavior during interviews and interrogations. To date, 498 students have completed this course.

Officers who participated in these courses previously completed either a 10-week basic training course for new recruits or a three-week 'transitional integration program' course designed for prior-service officers.

## Iraqi equipment roll-up

**A look at some of the equipment delivered to the Iraqi Security Forces July 13 — July 19**

**Ammunition..... 555,100 rounds**

**Body Armor..... 1,035**

**Helmets..... 1,726**

**Vehicles.....230**

— *Information provided by MNSTC-I J-4*

# Iraqi Security Forces / In Brief

## Iraqi soldiers capture foreign fighters

BAQUBAH – Iraqi and Coalition soldiers captured a high value individual during a raid July 21 north of Baghdad, according to a multinational forces report.

Soldiers with the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade, 5<sup>th</sup> Iraqi Army Division, along with soldiers from Task Force 2-34, conducted a raid on short notice in Khan Bani Saad Thursday. The successful operation resulted in the capture of 11 suspected insurgents, six of whom were foreigners. Five Syrians and one Egyptian were detained in the operation and are being held for questioning.

## Iraqi police arrest extortionist with ties to terrorist group

BAGHDAD – Iraqi police recently arrested a man who attempted to kill several people for failing to pay him money he was demanding, according to a multinational forces report dated July 22.

Police officers from the Al Hurrya Police Station caught the suspect after he had thrown a hand grenade at the home of a family in the Mansour District. No one was hurt in the blast. At the time of the suspect's arrest, he was in possession of one AK-47 automatic rifle and one handgun. The weapons were seized for evidence. Upon further investigation, it was discovered that the suspect is a member of the Alan Shar Sunni terrorist group.

According to the suspect, he was recruited by the group to be a driver and was paid 200,000 dinar for his efforts.

## Iraqi Army patrols find IED and capture insurgent

AD DULUIYAH – Iraqi Army soldiers on patrol discovered and destroyed an improvised explosive device here July 22, according to a multinational forces report.

Soldiers with the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade, 4<sup>th</sup> Iraqi Army Division discovered the IED consisting of two 155 mm artillery rounds. Elements of Task Force 1-15 and an Iraqi explosive ordnance disposal team arrived at the scene and assisted in the preparations for a controlled blast which destroyed the IED.

Elsewhere, elements of Task Force 5-7 and 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 4<sup>th</sup> Brigade, 4<sup>th</sup> Iraqi Army Division conducted a joint cordon and search for an anti-Iraq forces operative based upon information provided by a local national. The search resulted in the capture of the suspected insurgent believed to be involved in IED attacks against Coalition forces on main supply routes in the vicinity of Balad.

## Iraqi soldiers capture suspect near traffic point

QAYYARAH – Iraqi soldiers observed a suspicious man carrying a box near a traffic control point July 22, and captured him before he could escape, according to a multinational forces report.

The man suddenly dropped the box and attempted to

flee while walking next to the traffic point. Soldiers with the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade, 2<sup>nd</sup> Iraqi Army Division chased him down and immediately captured the suspect. The box he was carrying contained one anti-tank mine, one washing machine timer, and a 12-volt rechargeable battery.

The man was detained and the contents of the box were destroyed.

## Police detain four insurgents

KIRKUK – Iraqi police officers and Coalition forces conducted a knock and search operation July 22 resulting in the capture of an anti-Iraq forces cell, according to a multinational forces report.

Elements of the 2-116 U.S. Armored Regiment and Iraqi police confiscated wires, schematics, circuit boards, boxes of electronics, information on how to make improvised explosive devices, a sketch of the 4<sup>th</sup> Street bridge, information on soldiers in a specific unit, identification information on soldiers at a forward operating base, a soldier's care package, and an Iraq visual language military training aid. Four men, claiming to be Kurdish, were detained during the operation. All four detainees were later determined to be Arabs and were taken to the Qoria Police Station.

## Looking back

### One year ago in Iraq

With 140,000 American troops now deployed and thousands more awaiting orders, the war in Iraq is a major theme in the 2004 U.S. presidential campaign.

It's the first time since the 1972 election, when the United States was still involved in the Vietnam War, that candidates are stumping for votes as significant numbers of service members are in harm's way. In May 2003, President Bush stood aboard the aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln and declared an end to "major combat operations" under a banner that read "Mission Accomplished." Since then, the war in Iraq has been a major focus of his re-election campaign.

Bush's Democratic opponent isn't shying away from the military either as he campaigns. Senator John Kerry of Massachusetts officially declared his candidacy while standing in front of a decommissioned aircraft carrier in South Carolina last September.

Both candidates mention the war in Iraq, terrorism, veterans and military service frequently in their campaign speeches.

On the eve of the Democratic National Convention, the election remains too close to call. This week's USA Today/CNN/Gallup Poll shows Kerry holding a 49 percent to 47 percent edge among likely voters. With independent candidate Ralph Nader in the picture, Kerry's margin over Bush drops to a single point.